



ARKANSAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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CRITICAL GROUND WATER DESIGNATION

The Problem:

Arkansas has an abundance of good quality ground water. However, some parts of the state are not so fortunate. The ground water supply is being depleted faster than the rate of recharge. If this trend continues, it will result in permanent damage to the aquifers and a serious ground water shortage. Measures must be taken to protect the state's precious ground water supply. This can be done by reducing the use of ground water through conservation and use of excess surface water.

Concerns:

What is a critical ground water area?

Pursuant to Act 154 of 1991, the **Arkansas Soil & Water Conservation Commission** designates a critical area after notice and public hearings. The critical area is defined based on significant ground water declines and/or water quality degradation. Boundaries are configured based on the natural hydrogeologic boundary of the aquifer.

What does it mean to be in a designated critical ground water area?

Designation recognizes the existence of a water quality or quantity problem and encourages local interests to develop a plan of action to address the problems.

What is in it for me?

Designation makes an area a priority for state and federal programs such as tax credits and cost sharing programs.

Can being designated critical negatively affect my community?

No. This is a non-regulatory program, which focuses on conservation and education programs, such as state tax incentives for the installation of water conservation practices.

Will regulation be imposed as a result of designation?

No. There is no regulation of water associated with critical area designation. Regulation cannot be initiated without a new process involving lengthy legal proceedings, additional notice and public hearings. Regulation has not been proposed anywhere in the state.

Will water use fees result from designation?

No. No additional fees of any kind are authorized by designation.

Will designation require me to install meters on my wells?

No. Critical area designation does not require metering of flows.

For more information on ground water or critical area designation contact:

Ground Water Issues

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Water Management

Earl Smith
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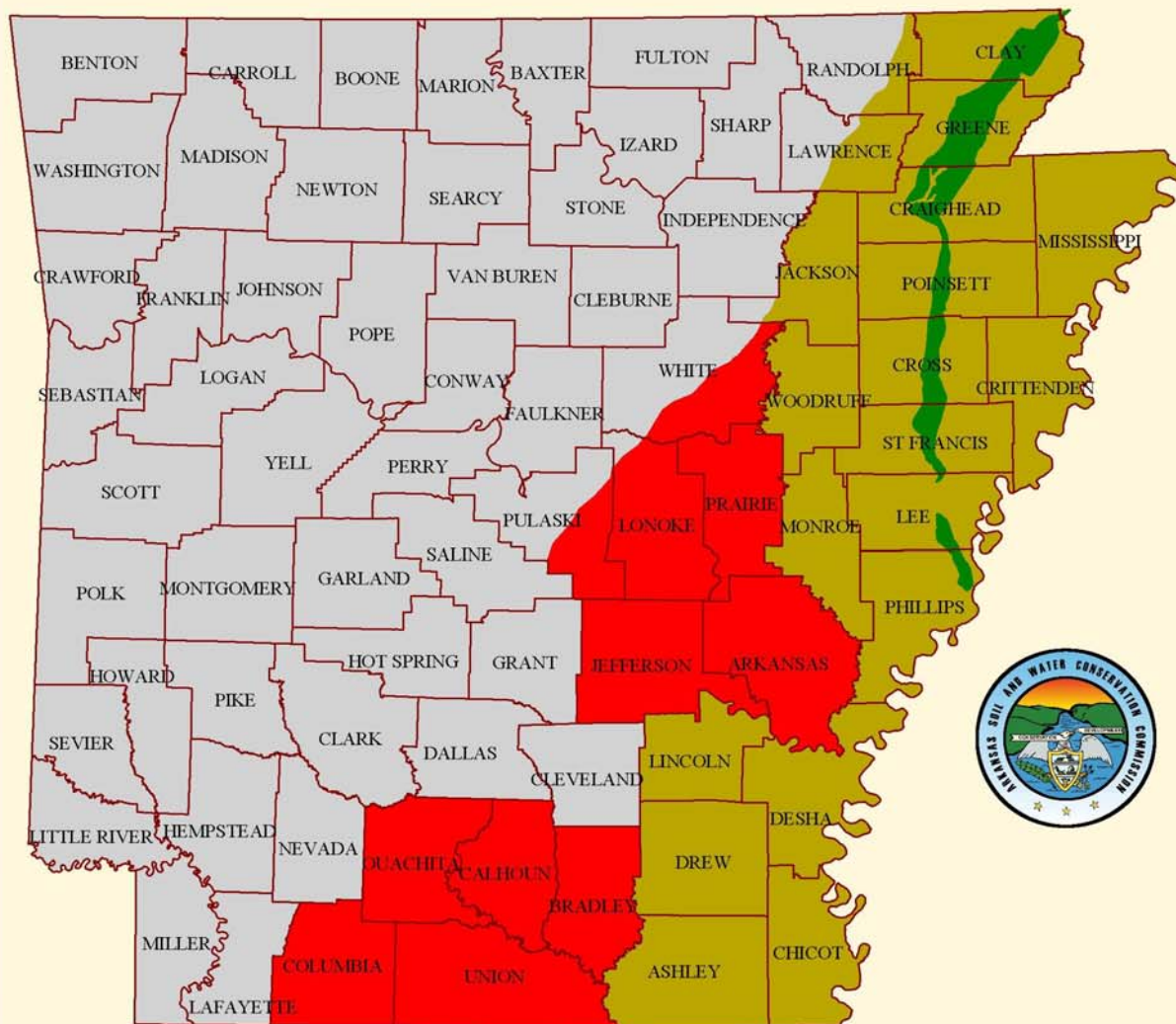
Legal Issues

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Please see back for map of proposed area and map of other areas designated.

Fig. 2

Critical Ground Water Designations



Legend

- Study Areas
- Current Critical Areas
- Crowley's Ridge
- County Lines